Guest Editorial

Some Things You Keep

Some things you keep. Like good teeth. Warm coats. Bald husbands. They're good for you, reliable and practical and so sublime that to throw them away would make the trash man a thief.

So you hang on, because something old is sometimes better than something new, and what you know is often better than a stranger. These are my thoughts, they make me sound old — old and tame, and dull at a time when everybody else is risky and racy and flashing all that's new and improved in their lives. New careers, new thighs, new lips, new cars.

The world is dizzy with trade-ins. I could keep track, but I don't think I want to.

I grew up in the fifties with practical parents — a mother, God bless her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked with it, then reused it — and still does. A father who was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones.

They weren't poor, my parents, they were just satisfied. Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now, Dad in trousers and tee shirt and Mom in a house dress, lawnmower in one hand, dishtowel in the other. It was a time for fixing things — a curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress.

Things you keep. It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, reheating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant there'd always be more.

But then my father died, and on that clear autumn night, in the chill of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any 'more.' Sometimes what you care about most gets all used up and goes away, never to return.

So, while you have it, it's best to love it and care for it and fix it when it's broken and heal it when it's sick. That's true for marriage and old cars and children with bad report cards and dogs with bad hips and aging parents. You keep them because they're worth it — because you're worth it.

Some things you keep. Like a best friend that moved away or a brother or sister you grew up with, there's just some things that make life important . . . people you know are special . . . and you should keep them close!

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Letters

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Uintah Basin Standard welcomes and encourages opinions from readers in the form of letters to the editor. Letters may be utilized to express opinions or comments, to highlight outstanding service of an individual or organization, or any other worthwhile purpose. Letters may not be used to replace Cards of Thanks, or to list sponsors, participants, or contributors to a particular event or purpose. LETTERS MUST CONTAIN 400 WORDS OR LESS, BE TYPED OR WRITTEN LEGIBLY, SIGNED, AND INCLUDE NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER OF THE AUTHOR. *Letters will be published unless they contain libelous or defamatory statements. We reserve the right to edit letters and to withhold a name by request if the nature of the letter is positive. Letters may be submitted to the Standard office at 268 S. 200 E., Roosevelt, Utah, 84066 by the published deadline (normally Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.) All letters become property of the Uintah Basin Standard.*

Press coverage failed to tell story

Dear Editor,

I wish to express my disappointment and anger regarding your short article about the terminated Utes VS the federal government. In my opinion, the lack of local press coverage shows prejudice in this matter. We are only trying to regain our rights that were wrongfully taken from us. Other terminated tribes have successfully regained their rights. Full and accurate coverage would be greatly appreciated. The terminated mixed bloods have already suffered enough.

We deserve to be treated with respect regarding our cause. I ask that you further research the facts and give us a fair chance to express our opinions. All I am asking from your newspaper is that you report the facts and inform the public of what was wrongfully taken from us.

Thank you

Kolene Martinez

Standard didn't adequately cover Felter lawsuit

Dear Editor,

The shortness of your article titled "Terminated Utes file new suit against federal government" confirms my belief that the lack of local press coverage helps to hide the gross injustice caused to my clients, i.e., the loss of their identity.

Had you bothered to competently research the "Felter" complaint, you would find that my client's are asserting legal theories against the United States Government that have not been raised in any past litigation.

We argue that the United States of America did not properly execute Ute Partition Act and, hence, the "termination" of the plaintiff's status as federally-recognized Indians should never have happened. Similar arguments were filed by numerous terminated California Indians over 17 years after they lost their federally-recognized status and they succeeded in reclaiming that status.

This fact should inspire the Standard to cover this case in a more sensitive and thorough manner: that is unless no one in your local area really cares about the condition of the so-called "mixed blood Utes" for fear that they will lose their grip on what was wrongfully taken from my clients and given, by the federal government, to others.

At the heart of this case is an international human rights cause. "Deadpan" style local press coverage will only inspire my clients to make every effort to draw attention on a federal case of international dimensions. What would happen if Nelson Mandella came to town and made a speech to protest the inhumane treatment of my clients? Would the Standard care?

Dennis G. Chappabitty

Legal Counsel for Plaintiffs

Standard website helps Chinese students keep in touch with Risers

Dear Editor,

Hello, I am a college student in China. I write this to you and want all of you know that far away from American there are a girl like this website very much. And also some of my classmates. Maybe you can't believe it. We are really like to read every time we get on the Internet. The most interesting section for us is sports, for some special reason (a little selfish, maybe), we all know the player of Union High School - Mari Riser. She is the daughter of our English teacher - Scott Riser. I read the sports news carefully every time, and enjoy the good time with every player. Mari return back for a year, I miss her. Her name on the website strong my feeling every time. I hope I can see her picture when she playing games. I really hope you can make my dream come true. Thank you very much.

Best wishes! Tina Young

Clarification

In last week's edition of the Standard, the article "Decision made to vacate roads in Arcadia," quoted Alarik Myrin as saying "No one will be landlocked. I have worked with property owners in the past and will continue to do so. We will honor the valid, existing rights." Myrin would like to clarify that statement by saying that nobody with valid existing rights will be landlocked.

The Uintah Basin Standard Inc.

(USPS 646-900) Periodical postage paid at Roosevelt and Duchesne, Utah
Published weekly at 268 S. 200 E., Roosevelt, Utah 84066-3109

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to the Uintah Basin Standard at
268 S. 200 E., Roosevelt, Utah 84066-3109

OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday thru Friday
Phone 435-722-5131, Fax: 435-722-4140

DEADLINES:
For all News, Legal Notices, Classifieds & Advertising, the Deadline is Thursday at 5 p.m.

PUBLISHER: Craig Ashby **EDITOR:** Lezlee E. Whiting
ADVERTISING: Matthew Evans **OFFICE MANAGER:** Bonnie Parrish

PRODUCTION:
Writers: Aldon Rachele, Theresa Morrill, Sue Collier, Angela Eddington
Production: Colette Ashby, Andrea Harper, Julie Nazer and Doris Bertoch

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Subscription Rates:

Clip and Send to:
Uintah Basin Standard
268 S. 200 E.
Roosevelt, Utah 84066-3109

In the Uintah Basin
1 Yr. $24 – 2 Yr. $37
Out of the Uintah Basin
1 Yr. $36 – 2 Yr. $56

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Does annuity payout from 401(k) make sense for you?

If you have a 401(k) plan where you work, you'll have an important decision to make upon your retirement. Specifically, how should you take your 401(k) money? You'll want to make the right choice - because it can make a big difference in your life. Let's consider the distribution options available to you:

· **You can take the money as a lump sum** - Many plans require participants to take their 401(k) in a lump sum distribution - and many people choose lump sums, even when they have a choice. If you need a large sum of money immediately upon retirement, taking a lump sum may be right for you. However, your plan will immediately withhold 20 percent for taxes, and you may have to pay more later.

· **You can leave the money in your plan** - Not all 401(k) plans offer this option. But if it's available, it may be a good choice for you if you like the investment options in your 401(k) and if the plan allows you to withdraw funds as often as you need after you retire. You will have to start making withdrawals by age 70 1/2.

· **You can move your money into an IRA** - If you move your 401(k) into a "Rollover IRA," your money will continue to grow on a tax-deferred basis, and you will avoid the 20 percent federal withholding. You can withdraw money as you need it, subject to IRA minimum distribution rules, and you'll pay income tax only on the amount you withdraw. (Withdrawals before age 59-1/2 may be subject to a 10 percent early withdrawal penalty.) Plus, you can fund your IRA with virtually any type of investment - stocks, bonds, government securities, etc.

Your final distribution option is to convert your 401(k) into a lifetime annuity, purchased from a private insurance company. Not all plans offer this choice, but if they do, it is an option worth considering for one reason alone: It offers you an income stream you can't outlive. Every month, for the rest of your life, you will receive a check for the same amount of money - even if the cumulative payments exceed the amount you paid into your 401(k).

Furthermore, you can extend your annuity over the course of two lifetimes. Thus, when you die, your spouse will start receiving the monthly payments. As is the case with IRA withdrawals, your annuity payments are subject to ordinary income tax.

Clearly, a lifetime source of income may be of great value to you - especially when you consider that you could easily spend two or three decades in retirement. At the same time, you'll need to take into account two possible drawbacks to taking your 401(k) distribution as an annuity. First, your payments will not be indexed for inflation, so, over time, you will lose purchasing power. And second, there's no death benefit to this annuity - when you and your spouse pass on, the payments stop.

Ultimately, you'll have to look at your overall financial picture before you decide if taking your 401(k) distribution as an annuity is a good idea for you. If, after reviewing your situation, you identify a need for a regular source of income, the annuity may be a possibility. But if you know that you'll have enough money coming in from a variety of sources, and you want to maximize the assets you leave to your beneficiaries, you might want to consider other distribution options.

It's your choice - so make it a good one.

Submitted By Rich Gilbert

Problems with new road on Lagoon Street can be remedied

By Lezlee E. Whiting

Roosevelt city officials and the contractor responsible a major road improvement project on Lagoon Street are working together to find a solution to problem pavement on a newly asphalted road.

The road is a main artery for traffic and is used by students at nearby Union High, the USU Uintah Basin campus and Uintah Basin Applied Technology College.

Cold temperatures combined with a batch of asphalt that failed to blend properly are being pointed to as the cause of the problem, according to Roosevelt City Administrator Brad Hancock. The irregularities forced city engineers overseeing the project to reject the road upon completion.

"When it's all said and done we will have a good road. There's a good road there now, but it's not as good was what we want," Hancock explained. "These kind of things happen all the time when your doing road work, we just need to give the contractor a chance to propose a fix."

The road overlay has caused concern because some portions of the road have asphalt that has too much oil or too much aggregate. In both cases, the blend of asphalt won't hold up as it should, he said.

Road contractor Gil Mitchell, of Ned Mitchell Construction, said he stands behind his work and will make the necessary corrections as soon as weather permits.

"Paving this time of year is extremely difficult, the cold is very unforgiving," said Mitchell. "We could have taken the option to shut down paving until the winter ended, but Roosevelt city didn't want to do that. It's going to be fixed in the spring."

Possible solutions include overlaying or doing some chip and seal on the portions of the road in question. It is highly unlikely that the pavement would have to be ripped up and replaced entirely, said Hancock and Mitchell.

"We will make it right, but to be tearing out $120,000 worth of oil is pretty drastic," noted Mitchell.

According to the two men it's not uncommon for pavement projects that begin as winter approaches to fall victim to problems with laying pavement. A section of pavement in Tabiona under contract by Duchesne County, is experiencing the same difficulties.

The Lagoon Street improvement project began in October and was recently concluded, with the exception of the corrections that must be addressed. The road project runs along Lagoon Street from 500 East to the USU Uintah Basin campus. Construction work included widening the and paving the street, adding sidewalks, and installing new culverts.

The project had been high on the city's priority list for some time. It was originally bid out at $226,960, but the price was pushed up close to $249,000 due to unforeseen problems with clay material in the road base which required additional excavation, said Hancock.

City Council member Beverly Hansen said even with the issues that need to be addressed, the road project is still a great improvement for the city.

"The safety of high school, UBATC and USU students has been greatly enhanced by the installation of sidewalks on each side of Lagoon Street," she noted.

The city is also in the process of working with Moon Lake Electric to install 12 new street lights on Lagoon Street to enhance pedestrian safety, said Hansen.

Lawmakers back off plan to shift sales tax away from water development

A plan to take about $20 million in sales tax money earmarked for water development in Utah and place it in the state's ailing education budget appears to have lost steam.

The tax shift would have particularly hurt rural Utah water projects, and was seen by Uintah Basin water officials as a bad idea. About 50 percent of the sales tax revenue earmarked for water goes directly to rural communities for water and waste water development projects.

The proposal was supported by environmentalists and Gov. Mike Leavitt who wanted to see water users foot the tab for their development and treatment projects, without state subsidies. Those in favor of the tax shift also hoped that by cutting down on financial help, water users would learn to be more conservative.

Two prominent lawmakers now say they prefer that income taxes be raised, rather than shifting property taxes earmarked for water development.

"If we want to put money into education, we're just further ahead to just raise the income tax," said Rep. David Ure (R- Kamas).

Sen. Leonard Blackham (R-Moroni) and Rep. Ure recently told a legislative committee that the current water funding format is working well and the Legislature should preserve the 1/16 percent sales tax, which annually raises money for water projects. The two men chaired a legislative task force assigned to look into alternative means of funding water projects in the state without the sales tax money.

They also argued against removing local property taxing authority for financing dams, pipelines and water treatment plants.

In examining alternative funding sources for water, the task force considered everything from a tax on toilets and soft drinks to a state-sponsored lottery. Other possible money-raising avenues included admissions to state water parks and golf courses, waterfowl hunting and fishing licenses, metered water sales, or statewide property tax for water development.

Without the state funds, many rural communities could find it financially impossible to build culinary water projects needed for economic development. At the same time, irrigators who need the financial aid for farms and ranches could see their operations crippled.

Randy Crozier director of the Duchesne County Water Conservancy District spent time lobbying lawmakers to educate them on the important role the 1/16th sales tax money plays in rural counties. Local lawmakers Sen. Beverly Evans, Rep. Gordon Snow and Rep. Jack Seitz were in full support of keeping the funding as it is, he said.

Water funds available through the state 1/16th sale tax recently aided members of the Hanna Water District by helping to cut down the amount they paid for a water connection from $15,000 to $9,000. In addition, with the state sales tax money the district was eligible for mix and match aid from other financial resources.

A shot may avert cervical cancer

Scientists have created the first vaccine that appears to prevent cervical cancer. The vaccine works by making people immune to a sexually transmitted virus that causes many cases of the disease.

The vaccine is experimental and will not be available to the public for several years.

A successful vaccine could sharply reduce rates of cervical cancer, which affect 470,000 women a year worldwide and kills 225,000. In the United states, there are 13,000 cases a year and 4,100 deaths.

In a study of 2,392 young women, half of them vaccinated and half given placebo shots, the vaccine was 100 percent effective. Followed for 17 to 27 months, no vaccinated woman developed infections or precancerous growths from the virus, whereas 41 nonvaccinated women did become infected, including nine with precancerous cervical growths. A report on the study is being published Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"These are tremendous results," said Dr. Laura A. Koutsky of the University of Washington in Seattle, director of the study, which was carried out by researchers from 16 universities and Merck Research Laboratories, and unit of Merck & Co. made the vaccine and paid for the research.

"It's very encouraging that there will be a vaccine to prevent invasive cervical cancer," Koutsky said.

An expert not connected with the study, Dr. Carol L. Brown, a gynecologic cancer surgeon at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, called the study "highly, highly significant and very exciting."

"This has the potential if it pans out to be a really effective way of preventing cervical cancer," she said.

POOR